LIBRARY

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

LAUNCESTON RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER. OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health - P.O'F. Boyle, M.B. B.Ch. B.A.O.
Sanitary Inspector - T.A. Judd, M.S.I.A.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for 1942.

SECTION A - Statistics and Social Conditions.

Table 1.

Area	73,187 acres.
Population	7,266.
Social Conditions	Main Industry Agriculture
Unemployment	Negligible.
No. of Occupied Houses	1976.
Product of penny rate	£69..13..10½.

Table 11.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1000.	England & Wales
Deaths	93	47	46	12.8	11.6
Live Births	87	42	45	10.6	15.8
(a) legitimate	84	41	43		
(b) illegitimate	3	1	2		
Still Births	3	3	0		
(a) legitimate	3	3	0		
(b) illegitimate	0	0	0		

Deaths from Puerperal Causes Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year.

	Total	Rate per 1000 live births	England & Wales
Legitimate	6	69	49
Illegitimate	0	0	

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	18
" " Measles	0
" " Whooping Cough	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0

Table IV.

Causes of deaths as classified by the Registrar- General.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis . .	1	0
Influenza	1	1
Cancer (all sites)	6	9
Diabetes	1	0
Intracranial Vascular lesions .	4	8
Heart Disease	15	9
Other disease of circulatory system	1	0
Bronchitis	1	3
Pneumonia	1	0
Other Respiratory disease . .	2	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum . .	0	1
Nephritis	0	1
Premature birth	1	1
Congenital Malformation etc. . .	1	0
Suicide	1	0
All other causes	10	10
Total	47	46

Table V.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease.

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to hospital	Died.
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	21	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-
Measles	2	-	-
Pneumonia	9	-	-

Tuberculosis:-

There was one (male) death from Respiratory tuberculosis and one (male) death from non-respitarory tuberculosis. During the year eight new cases were notified five male (3 pulmonary and two non pulmonary) and three female (two pulmonary and one non pulmonary).

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Sessional immunisation at the schools continues and arrangements have been continued whereby children can be immunised free of charge at the surgery of any doctor.

In the year under review deaths again exceed live births in contrast to the figures for the country as a whole. The absence of maternal deaths or deaths from notifiable infectious disease is very satisfactory. I wish to thank Mr. Judd for his excellent work during the year

P. O'F. Boyle.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Little of outstanding interest has happened during the year. Owing to the shortage of builders and in particular masons, considerable difficulty has been experienced in getting the very minimum of essential repairs carried out to dwelling houses.

In the early months of the year several cases of scabies were reported. Steps were taken to emphasise the need for medical attention where cases of this complaint were suspected and in all reported cases the clothing was steam disinfected.

During the summer, the exterior wood and iron work of the Council cottages at Altarnun was painted.

Housing.

An old disused cottage at Kingbear, North Hill was thoroughly re-conditioned by the owner. This cottage was provided with a piped water supply, also a bath and indoor flushed Water Closet.

Work on the last four cottages to be erected by the Duchy of Cornwall under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, for agricultural workers at Stokeclimsland, has been considerable retarded on account of labour shortage. At the end of the year, cottages Nos. 9 and 10 were nearing completion.

The unsatisfactory conditions under which a family were living in a hut at Downgate, Stokeclimsland was reported to the Council. This hut consisted of one room only in which the occupants both lived and slept. As well as being overcrowded, the walls of the hut were damp and there was no sanitary accommodation. The Council caused the dwelling to be closed for human habitation and the occupants found alternative accommodation.

It was necessary for the Council to serve 6 Statutory Notices in respect of unsatisfactory housing conditions; at the end of the year 4 of these Notices had been complied with.

During the year, 12 cottages were repaired as the result of informal action.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

No applications have been received under these Acts.

New Houses.

No new houses have been completed and no plans for new houses deposited.

Future Housing.

The housing situation in the district is acute

and will not be relieved until such time as the Council can themselves build a considerable number of working class cottages. At the present time, many cottages which can only be considered as quite unfit for human habitation, are occupied and must continue to be occupied solely because there is no available alternative accommodation for the people who inhabit these undesirable dwellings.

Milk Supplies.

Licences to produce and sell Accredited Milk have been issued to the following four producers: Mr. F. Medland, Coads Green; Mr. R.T.Kneebone, South Petherwin; Mr. F.G.Heal, Boyton; Mr. L. Barriball, Stokeclimsland.

There is still room for improvement both with regard to the buildings and methods of milk production in the district. At the end of the year a considerable step forward was made when the County Advisory Committees were formed and the National Milk Testing Scheme introduced. As a result, all milk will be periodically tested for it's keeping qualities; I look forward to a considerable improvement in the cleanliness of milk supplies as a result of the work of the Advisory Committee.

One milk producer in the Bolventor district was found to be producing milk under exceptionally dirty conditions. As a result of informal action this producer was persuaded to give up milk production.

Water Supplies.

As usual, a large number of complaints were received during the summer months from occupiers of dwelling houses suffering from a shortage of drinking water. Until the district is served with an adequate supply of piped water there seems no hope of bringing relief to such persons.

One house in St. Stephens Rural, and which is only across the road from the Borough boundary, was without water for several months. The occupiers then obtained their supply from an adjacent farm in the Launceston Borough until the Borough Council refused to allow them to draw further from their supply

Infectious Diseases.

I am again indepted to Dr. T. Pierson, Medical Officer of Health, Plymouth City Council, for allowing me the use of the steam disinfector at Swilly Isolation Hospital for fumigating bedding after cases of infectious disease.

Salvage.

During the year 8 tons of paper, rags and bones together with 41 tons 2 cwt. of scrap metal were collected and sold for £49..0..3

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T.A.JUDD.

Sanitary Inspector.